

The McGill Daily

Volume 87 • Issue 40

Canceling the Resurrection since 1911

Monday, February 2, 1998

KPMG contract called into question

by Mark Ratner *Councillors ask if the SSMU agreement followed the constitution*

A contract between the KPMG consulting firm and McGill's Student Society is being called into question on the grounds that it has not received approval by the SSMU council.

Law Representative Mario Nigro says that the SSMU Executive has overstepped its power by entering into a \$25 000 financial commitment without going through the proper channels.

The executive cannot decide themselves on the KPMG contract, says Nigro.

Nigro argues that the contract, originally agreed to in the summer of 1997, violates SSMU's constitution. He says that the constitution requires that every financial agreement must be reviewed by the Financial Ethics Research Committee (FERC) and must receive ratification by Council.

Initially, Nigro had filed an appeal regarding the KPMG agreement with SSMU's Judicial Board. But now that the contract will be discussed at an upcoming council meeting, Nigro has decided to withdraw the appeal.

We are going to wait until it

goes to council and argue that the executive has acted illegally [by entering into the KPMG contract], he says.

The January 22 council meeting saw confusion regarding whether or not council had actually ratified the KPMG agreement. Earlier on in the year, SSMU council had accepted Duncan Reid's reports about KPMG. The council's speaker had ruled that the agreement was approved when council voted to accept Reid's reports with updates about the progress of the negotiations with KPMG.

Nigro made a motion to overrule this decision on the grounds that those reports were only accepted as information, and not as official SSMU policy.

Council overwhelmingly voted in favour of Nigro's motion to overrule the speaker's ruling. Only the five members of the executive committee and Clubs representative Mike Kotler voted in favour of the Speaker's ruling. That vote represented the first time that the actions of the executive had so strongly been called into question. Although Nigro has been critical of the executive all

year, last Thursday's vote marks the first time that council as a body has strongly supported his views.

But according to SSMU President Tara Newell, the KPMG contract is binding because, according to her, it had been reviewed by the FERC.

VP-Finance Duncan Reid says that the KPMG contract received approval by FERC last Tuesday.

At this point, although it is a retroactive decision, it was approved on Tuesday. It was approved retroactively, he says.

Newell also points out that the executive was completely open to debate regarding the KPMG contract, but that the issue was never brought up at any meetings by councillors.

Another councillor, Board of Governors representative Carrie Goldstein agrees with Newell that there had been adequate notice of the KPMG contract.

Council was 100% aware of it, it was in the document, it was voted on, most people know it was not cheap. It was not sneaky, she said.

Concerns persist regarding the

high price tag of the contract. Nigro argues that the \$25 000 that will be spent on KPMG could have instead gone towards the hiring of McGill Management Students as consultants. Nigro points out that there is an internal consulting group as part of McGill's MBA program.

But Reid downplays such an idea.

That fundamentally doesn't make sense, he says, it would be just like saying we should use McGill law students to fight the differential tuition fees lawsuit, he says.

Newell also emphasizes the need for independent consulting. She cites the pending construction of a new student services building as a chance to renew the struc-

ture of SSMU.

I am actually dismayed with the opposition. If I could just convey the absolute necessity of it. We will have to make restructuring in our office. We are not always reflecting students' views, she says.



PHOTO BY LORI BRAUN

Faculty of Law Council Mario Nigro

Health Plan contract under attack

Nigro contends that proper review never occurred

by Ben Hardy

Law councillor Mario Nigro has filed an appeal to the SSMU Judicial Review Board claiming that the Student Society's three year, \$6 million contract with the Quebec Student Health Alliance (QSHA) did not receive necessary review by either the SSMU Council or the Financial Ethics Research Committee. Further, last year's outgoing executives acted beyond their powers in signing the agreement. The appeal calls for the nullification of the contract between SSMU and QSHA, and asks for investigation into several aspects of the two organizations' relationships.

Last year's SSMU Executive Committee signed the agreement with QSHA two days before leaving office, after the final Council meeting of the year. According to Nigro's appeal, current VP Finance Duncan Reid "...as manager of the Health Plan was responsible for bringing this agreement to Council and he did not.

Reid explains, [Last year's VP Finance] Jon Chomsky had planned to bring this before Coun-

cil [at the last meeting], but the Councilors did not show up, so there was no quorum.

The Executive Committee felt that it was then within their powers to sign the agreement, rather than unnecessarily delaying several months until this year's Council came into office and became sufficiently acquainted with the intricacies of the contract and the Health Plan.

This is a serious problem...They really only needed a one year deal, argues Nigro. Why did they wait until April [to bring the contract before Council]? It's an abuse of power, and we have to stop it.

In his appeal, Nigro states, The three year contract with the QSHA Alliance was not reviewed by the Financial Ethics Committee, and even if it was review[ed], no information was provided to the student body of their findings. Therefore it is argued that the agreement is constitutionally illegal. Article 8 of the SSMU Constitution gives the Executive Committee all powers of Council between meet-

ings, except that they may not enter the Society into any financial agreement with any organization autonomous of the Society, prior to receiving recommendations from the Committee for Financial Ethics Research (FERC).

However, Reid claims that Chomsky informed FERC of his intent to enter into the agreement with QSHA, and that they did not respond. If FERC doesn't act within ten days, it's a go ahead. He notes, I don't think it was handled optimally. I like to see things go to Council, but adds that he doesn't think that the outgoing Executive Committee acted improperly, and to eliminate the plan now would not be of any value. We are definitely getting our money's worth.

Nigro argues that the 10 day policy is not binding. It's only a memo, it was never passed by council, and therefore should not be used to agree to the largest contract in SSMU history. It seems to me problematic, to institute this

(continued on page 10)

Education is a right

CFS announces its campaign for free education

by Keri Kosuri

The Liberal government's imminent cuts to post-secondary education, soaring tuition, and the increasing corporatization of universities is being challenged by students across Canada. At a press conference held on Wednesday, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), announced its campaign, titled Popular Action to FREE Education, to protest the neo-liberal agenda and the growing inaccessibility of education.

Recent cutbacks to post-secondary education, health care, and social assistance have increased tuition fees by 45 per cent and the average student debt load today is \$25,000.

People from across the country were on the streets on January 28th, said Anna Kruzynski, Chair of the Quebec Component of the Canadian Federation of Students. Students and popular groups in Montreal will be heard on February 11th. Kruzynski announced that an occupation and demonstration will begin at a

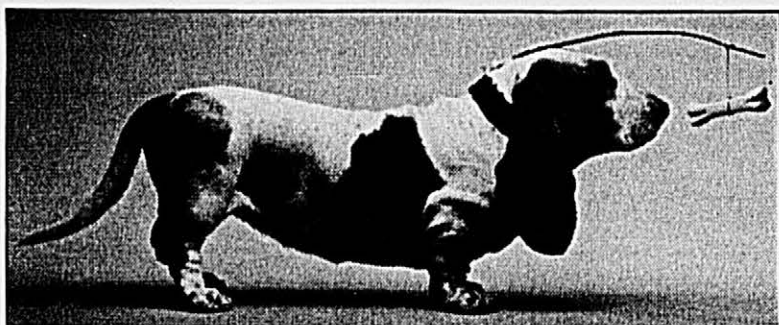
building in Montreal's financial district on February 11th within the context of the Pan-Canadian Day of Action.

Speakers at the conference also included, Mathieu Houle-Courcelles, a sociology student of UQAM; Maria Pelluso from the Concordia Inter-Union Council, Claude Rioux, Coordinator of the Christian Committee for human rights in Latin America; and Alexandre Popovic from the Committee of the Unemployed.

The speakers addressed the campaign's four major demands. The first priority is the negotiation of a Pan-Canadian Accord. The others include autonomous and democratic institutions, the right to protest and demonstrate freely without repression, and a global economy based on fair trade.

The Pan-Canadian Accord would guarantee the full public financing of education, education

(continued on page 10)



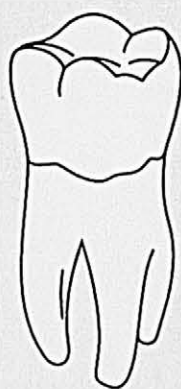
Oran
Cafe
Bistro

Divine Temptation...

Decadently delicious
2 for 1 desserts all the time!!
And enjoy our great
sweets with any of
our 25 boardgames!

3647 St.-Laurent
(below "le Swimming")

840-9000



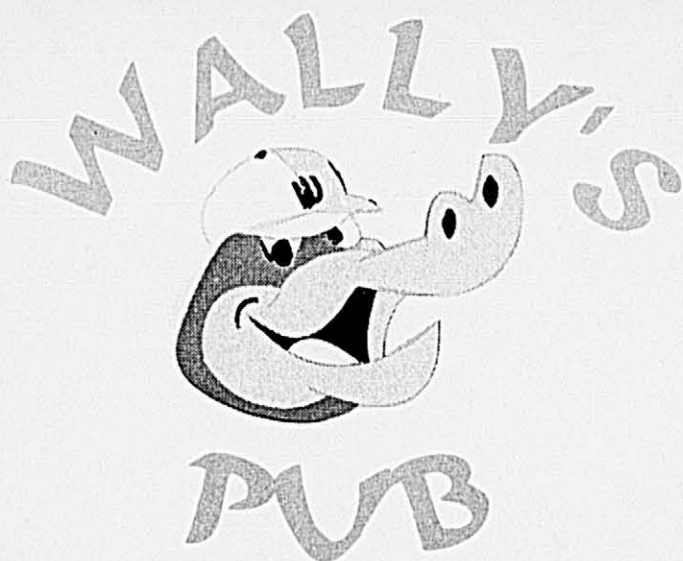
Dr. SHAHROK, D.M.D., B.Sc.
Dental Surgeon/Chirurgien Dentiste

Now accepting your student dental insurance
with any mode of payment that suits your
student budget.

At 2 convenient locations:
**N.D.G. DentWest II: 6332 Sherbrooke W.
Suite 203, 484-8808**

**West Island DentWest I: 12774 Blvd.
Gouin W. Suite 206, Pierrefonds, 684-0135**

**A GREAT PLACE TO
KICK BACK AND RELAX**



SHOWBAR

11:00 A.M. TO 3 A.M.

**Super Specials on Fab Pub
Meals & Low Beer Prices**

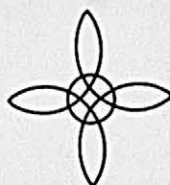
LIVE BAND: THURS-FRI-SAT

4 Giant Screens + 10 T.V.'s

**1106 De Maisonneuve O.
844-6262 (Corner Peel)**



The Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society



**Sexual Harassment and Assault are
prohibited under the McGill university
code of conduct.**

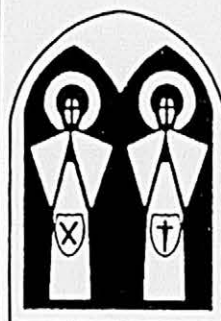
The Accompaniment Programme of the
Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students'
Society offers information, support and
accompaniment services for members of
the McGill community who have been
sexually harassed or assaulted in a McGill
context.

Information, Mon-Fri, 10am - 5:30pm,
398-2700.

Helpline, every night, 6pm-midnight,
398-8500.

WHO SAYS THERE ARE NO FREE LUNCHES!

WE INVITE YOU TO A
SPECIAL STUDENTS SUNDAY, FEB. 8
11 A.M. FOLLOWED BY AN INFORMAL LUNCH
- SEE YOU THERE!



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A FRIENDLY
CHURCH COMMUNITY WHILE AT
UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE, WHY NOT
CONSIDER US? WE'RE THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW
AND ST. PAUL, LOCATED ON
SHERBROOKE ST. AT BISHOP. JOIN US ON
FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30 P.M. FOR OUR
COLLEGES AND CAREERS PROGRAM.

FUTURE STUDENT LUNCHES

MAR. 8

THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW AND ST. PAUL
3415 Redpath Street, Montreal, Quebec H3G 2G2
(514) 842-3431



AUSTRALIA AND GREAT BRITAIN— FLY TO NEW HORIZONS!

- Study overseas - continue or complete your education abroad
- UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE:
- Teacher training—one-year programmes accredited in Ontario
- Masters' Degrees
- Professional certificates in many disciplines
- Reasonable fees - airport pick up in Australia - guaranteed accommodation
- Join the hundreds who have already enjoyed this cultural and educational experience!
- For more information contact:

K.O.M. CONSULTANTS
P.O. Box 60524
Mountain Plaza Postal Outlet
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 7N7

phone: (905) 318-8200
fax: (905) 318-KOM4
EMAIL: kom@wchat.on.ca

Look for our
information in
your University
Careers Office!

Brutopia

Brew Pub

• IN-HOUSE BREWERY •

**OUR
SPECIAL
BREWS**

Honey Beer
India Pale Ale
Nut Brown

Shuffleboard • Darts

HAPPY HOUR 20 oz. pints
\$3.50

4:00-8:00pm Mon-Fri
All Night Monday

Always at least
12 different beers on tap!

Live entertainment
Thursday-Saturday

1219 crescent
Tel: 393-9277

Life Style without glasses

"No touch" Laser Excimer PRK, Lasek

Myopia - Astigmatism - Hyperopia
Contact lens discomfort

LASER ULTRAVISION INSTITUTE
for careers in the Armed Forces, pilots, RCMP
air traffic controllers, firemen, police, athletics.

Medical Director

Dr. Marvin L. Kwitko

Past Chairman, Advisory Committee on the
Excimer Laser, for Health and Welfare Canada.
5591, Côte-des-Neiges, Mt, Qc, Canada
1(514)735-1133 1-800-20LASER

OPTOMETRIST

Students pay only \$5 for eye exam
& get \$100 coverage towards
eyeglasses or contacts - with your
Vision Health Eyecare Insurance.

- Eye Exam
- Eye Glasses (2 for 1)
- Contact Lenses

Dr. David Kwavnick, O.D.
1535 Sherbrooke St. W.
(corner Guy)

933-8700

**THE
DAILY**

advertising:
398-6790

SINCE
1911

Sex, power and comment selective coverage

If I have to wake up to one more stupid Commander-in-Sheets joke, I think I'm going to scream.

So why, you may ask, am I adding to yet another American-centred feeding frenzy when there must be other issues worth covering?

A reasonable question, I answer, but I'm not ready to move on yet. I have some questions of my own – and I'm willing to brave association with the mainstream media mobs to raise them.

"This is a sex and power story," noted one male correspondent in yet another special report. "People love that," he said.

As astute journalism no doubt, as long as the story falls within certain parameters. Above all, a good sex and power story should focus on the sex part and ignore that other part.

I mean, if we actually examined that other part we might have to think about who actually had more power in those

sexual encounters, and that could just get messy.

If we actually paused to talk about power, we might have to acknowledge the similarities between a president having sex with his intern and, say, a teacher having sex with a student.

Mutually consensual relations? Possibly.

Mutually consensual relations between equal partners in an equal power situation? Highly, highly unlikely.

But hey, since we're already avoiding those deliberations, we might as well sidestep that whole other Paula Jones thing too.

After all, sex and power stories just aren't the same when power is obviously being abused.

They just don't inspire the same kind of media and public interest, I guess.

Big surprise.

Even bigger surprise: Clinton might face impeachment charges not for harassing his colleagues and violating their rights, not for using his considerable clout to get away with it, but for lying about the one affair that just might have been mutually consensual.

Translation: You can't have a president who commits perjury, but you can have a president who uses his female colleagues as personal playthings.

"Forget these sex scandals," growled yet another angry male caller to some other host. "Let the president get back to the important things, like dealing with war in Iraq," he said.

Just think, I yearn to answer him, it could have been worse. If harassment were considered important enough for impeachment, the Washington daily routine might have been seriously disrupted a long time ago.

And that just would have been messy.

Robin Perelle

Errata

The *Daily* apologizes for printing several errors in "Borders Closed: Citizenship denied on the basis of sexual orientation," published in last Monday's issue (Jan. 26, 1998).

First of all, the federal government removed the prohibition against admitting individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation in 1978. As such, while same-sex spousal benefits are far from an established fact in Canada, it is illegal to withhold an individual's citizenship on the basis of her/his sexual orientation.

That said, same-sex marriage is still absolutely prohibited by all governments in Canada, including Quebec's. As of this printing, only the province of BC has redefined "spouse" to include partners of the same sex and the opposite sex in marriage or marriage-like situations; elsewhere in Canada, the term is restricted to opposite-sex partners only.

Due to this narrow definition of "spouse" (and "fiancé" by extension), same-sex couples in Canada are neither eli-

gible for marriage nor for the family sponsorship program administered by the federal Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. Unfortunately, despite the article's claim to the contrary, there is no same-sex sponsorship program, though humanitarian and compassionate exemptions are possible in certain circumstances.

Finally, while Gambon and Dubé are certainly among a select few courageous same-sex couples in North America to sue for the right to marry, their precedent-setting case stands beside others currently pending in Hawaii (where an appeal by the state to restrict the right to marry is still pending) and in Vermont. All of these cases deserve credit as firsts in North America.

The *Daily* regrets the multiple errors and welcomes questions to further clarify the matter.

letters

A deeper problem

To the *Daily*,

Attention

We are making a plea to the individual(s) who removed the *Fire With Water* submissions box from its proper place, the Shatner lobby, to please return it (anonymously if necessary). *Fire With Water* is a journal for the creative expression of survivors of sexual assault and abuse. Its purpose is two-fold: (1) supplying survivors with a scarcely available forum to convey the depth of their pain, anger, and fear, and thus take a positive action towards healing and (2) it contributes to promoting the reality of sexual assault as a subject that needs to be addressed by all members of a responsible society. We would like to believe that the box was taken without malicious intent, and without knowledge of the sensitive nature of the material it contained. If this act *was* committed as a malicious attempt to silence survivors of sexual assault, then this is indicative of a deeper problem on the McGill campus. In order to return the box, please return it to the SSMU front desk, and specify "for Pina." Alternatively, the box could be returned to the McGill "Lost and Found," located in the Ferrier building. In the event that the box is not returned,

we would like to strongly encourage those who have already submitted pieces to *Fire With Water* to please resubmit. We also call upon others to continue to contribute to *Fire With Water*, particularly in light of what has occurred.

Thank you for your understanding,

Christina Gravely
External Coordinator
Joanne Stuart
Special Projects Coordinator
SACOMSS

Shapiro's democracy
or
Shapiro's "lumbering" business

To the *Daily*,

When asked to respond to concerns that McGill's budgetary process is not sufficiently open or inclusive, McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro made the following comments, which were quoted in *The Daily* (January 26 and 29): "The business of students at university is to study. The business of faculty is to teach and do research. I don't think that under the name of democracy, you can usefully meet and sensibly say the business of students is to create the budget."

While this may seem to be an extremely efficient division

of labour from Principal Shapiro's perspective, it doesn't quite ring true. If I understand his meaning correctly, he is saying to us, as students, that it is our business to study. The cost of our study, how that cost is to be paid, whether it is wise or fair to lumber us with punishing burdens of debt to pay for our study – that is not our business. The issue of whether our fields of study are judged more or less "excellent" and worthy of funding than others, and on what grounds – that is not our business. Neither is the issue of whether it is wise to make our study dependent on corporate funding to substitute for public funding. And the issue of what sort of contribution our study would be making to our society, and whether public good or private profit should be the primary judge of those contributions – that is most definitely not our business. They used to say that a good education would help people become thinking, questioning, participating citizens of a democracy. But I suppose that is not our business here. It most definitely does not appear to be the business of our university.

Paul Beaulieu
Library and Information Studies

blackston
month
issue
coming
february 9
submit creative
writing & articles by
tuesday, february 3,
in shatner b-03

The McGill Daily

volume 87
number 40

editorial offices:
3480 McTavish St., Montréal, QC, room B-03, H3A 1N9
business and advertising office:
3480 McTavish St., Montréal, QC, room B-17, H3A 1N9
email:
daily@generation.net

editorial:
(514)-398-6784
business/advertising:
(514)-398-6790
fax:
(514)-398-8318

business manager:
Marian Schrier
assistant business manager:
Jo-Anne Pickel
advertising manager:
Letty Matteo, Boris Shedor
advertising layout and design:
Mark Brooker

contributors:

Zack Firestone, Jessica Lim, Jennifer Mudicka,
Matthew Murphy, Meg Murphy, Zachary Schwartz

co-ordinating editor:
Sonia Verma
co-ordinating news editor:
Mark Ratner
co-ordinating culture editor:
Ben Hardy
news editors:
Keri Kosuri, -
culture editors:
Julien Lapointe, -
features editor:
Verda Cook
copy editors:
Maggie Gilmour,
Neil Verma

daily français:
Jérôme Lussier,
Maude Laparé
photo editors:
Lori Braun, -

layout and design co-ordinators:
Paul Reeve, Amy Papaellias
office co-ordinator:
Samantha Murphy
project co-ordinator:
Andrea Mason
online editor:
Robin Perelle

All contents ©1998 Daily Publications Society. All rights reserved. The content of this newspaper is the responsibility of the McGill Daily and does not necessarily represent the views of McGill University or the Students' Society of McGill University. Products or companies endorsed in this newspaper are not necessarily endorsed by the Daily staff. Printed by Payette & Simms, Montréal, Québec.
The Daily is a founding member of Canadian University Press and Presse étudiante du Québec.

Printed on 20% Recycled Paper.
ISSN 1192-4608



DIGITAL COLOUR PHOTOCOPYING

is now available at
COPY SERVICE, Redpath Library Building

Colour Laser Copy \$ 1.50
Black & White Laser Copy 50¢
Acetates 50¢ extra

Come and see what we have to offer!

Is your piggy bank running low?

Learn how to stretch your dollar through smart budgeting and helpful hints on saving money.



Free Budget Seminars will be held in the Powell Student Services Building at 3637 Peel in room 204 on the following dates:

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Room 205
Friday, Feb. 5, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

FOR INFO: 398-6013/14

The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada
presents...

Dr. Tina Loo

Professor of History, Simon Fraser University
and Seagram Visiting Chair in Canadian Studies for 1997-1998

THE SEAGRAM LECTURE Postcards from the Edge: The Politics of Nature in British Columbia

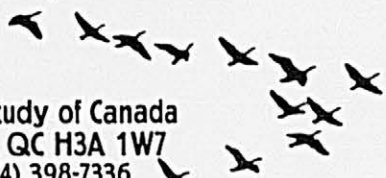
Nature, and especially wilderness, play an important role, in defining who Canadians think they are. Thanks to Emily Carr, the coastal rainforest - mysterious, verdant, and spiritual - is emblematic of the far west, just as William Kurelek's landscapes of endless sky and land are evocative of the prairies, and the Group of Seven's paintings of shield and boreal forest are symbolic of central Canada. As a country, Canada has sought, and seemingly found unity in nature rather than culture, in geography rather than history. But how did nature become a part of our nature? And what are the implications of that?

Wednesday, February 4
4 pm - 6 pm

Room 112 Otto Maass Chemistry Bldg.
McGill University

free admission - reception to follow

The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada
3463 Peel Street, Montreal, QC H3A 1W7
Tel: (514) 398-2658 Fax: (514) 398-7336
INTERNET: <http://www.arts.mcgill.ca/programs/misc>



hyde park

Report on the McGill residence phenomenon

Wonder what that smell is when you walk into McConnell Hall? It's FUN! McConnell, reaching its pinnacle of alternate-reality revelry three years ago when it made it onto David Letterman's Top Ten List as the wildest residence in - yes - North America, has fallen from grace. Satan no longer gets followers to smear bloody symbols on walls, pinball machines have stopped falling from seven floors up, and the most interesting thing you'll see on a Saturday night is six naked sociology majors licking elevator buttons and fighting the pink elephants crawling over their stomachs.

Beer is no longer free. Coors in plastic cups is now a \$1.50 a pop as McGill - to the delight of sponsors Molson and R.J. MacDonald, and NFL fans chanting "5.5" and pounding themselves on the back in a homoerotic homage to the 51st state - starts us down the profitable, "ignorance is bliss" road to happiness. The Americans can't believe the university charges a minimum for the debauchery that once-deified Frats provided. Hell, this place will even call an ambu-

lance for you if you pass into a coma.

Residence at McGill, bastion of neo-con homophobic xenophobic liberal high school mentality, has proven that university isn't about learning - or following a relevant program-but rather about making friends by getting sick with them. Annies, aptly named for the condition the social setting tends to impose on the already starved-cat thin girls that flock to the bar with their beefy boys, has its appeal in 50 cent beer and illness as quickly as possible.

Everyone else goes to raves, always full of slippery silver shiny women whacked on coke and their baby-smooth fuck-machine steroid-monkey male attachments, and if you missed the e it's about fucking time to go find some and turn your vague revulsion of these primitive creatures into unconditional love, which solves the problem until it wears off and you distance yourself from the platonic friends you've met and adored. Then its time to do it all over again. That's called a scene.

I'm not bitter. I dealt with the

residence experience by getting so high that any outside stimuli like some kind of 5-star mongoloid art flick. My problem is that I'm done with both high school and people's egotistical in crowd complexes and their six-foot snowpenises. Now I live in a newly-renovated apartment on the plateau, in the closest thing to Montreal's French-Canadian urban ghetto, where the skids are plentiful, the service is awful, and the owner of the dep watches Diana's funeral on heroin with old, dread-bearded Japanese wise men playing flutes and arguing about the Heisenberg principle. Everything basically kicks ass.

Except that I'm wandering lost in Arts haunted by absent career prospects, broke, sober, alienated, aesthetically bored, intellectually flatlined, unarmed, unhealthy, underdressed and 19, which is what residence tried to make me forget. I suppose I should have just bought into it all.

What the hell, I'll make a fresh start. I'm buyin' me a McGill sweatshirt, honey-child.

Fuckman

CFS campaign

continued from page 1

at all levels that is universally accessible and free, and a guaranteed living allowance for all students. Kruzynski stressed the need for such public funding by pointing to the fact that the federal government recently cut \$2.2 billion in transfer payments between 1993 and 1997. "For Québec this translates to \$205 million in cuts between 1997 and 2000."

The second and fourth demands call for a system of education favouring the development of critical thought and personal autonomy, and the self-governance of post-secondary institutions. This demand has been fueled by the growing numbers of for-profit corporations who sit on the governing bodies of universities. "Sitting around a table with CEOs is just not going to cut it anymore," states Kruzynski, "Governments are no longer being run by peo-

ple, but by the corporate sector. It's the interests of the corporate world that are taking priority over the citizens."

Last week, The Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union announced its opposition to the role of corporations in education and stated its support for the CFS in its fight against increasing tuition fees and cuts to education. "Government cuts combined with the increasing role of private business in education, means publicly-funded post-secondary education is in serious jeopardy," stated CEP President Fred Pomeroy.

Michelle Walsh of CEP explains that the unions will create an alternative budget supporting student demands as well as health and unemployment insurance, which will be submitted to Finance Minister Paul Martin. "The labour movement has always supported

the students in their quest for tuition fights," said Walsh.

At McGill, student resistance comes in the wake of Principal Shapiro's radical proposal to increase revenue by fundraising in the private sector, raising tuition to \$3,200, and the Alternative to privatize McGill. Shapiro remains skeptical about the National Day of Action. "I hope that the effort will be very successful," he remarked. "The efforts to produce public funding have failed year after year after year, so it's obviously not realistic to ask for public funding of education."

However, Kruzynski states, "Shapiro seems to think the only [option] is to raise tuition. He's lost hope in the federal government and obviously we don't believe that."

STICKING IT to the little guy

Montreal mining company blames citizens for delay

by Andrea Mason

Last December, Montréal-based mining giant Cambior Inc. announced an indefinite delay on its Carlota Copper Mine project in Globe, Arizona. The announcement coincides with a four year low in the value of copper but the corporation is attempting to shift the blame for the delay onto the shoulders of a local citizens' group opposed to the construction of the mine, Citizens for the Preservation of Powers Gulch and Pinto Creek.

"Globe's economy is heavily dependent on the mining industry," explains Pamela Hyde of American Rivers. "It's easier for Cambior to target opposition groups than explain to everybody that it's just not worth their while given the low price of copper."

"Cambior is using the quasi-historically low price of copper as a pretext for blaming environmentalists," asserts Dermot Travis of P.I.R.A. Communications. Travis calls Cambior's attempts to use local citizens as scapegoats "deplorable for a company that claims to be a 'progressive mining company committed to excellence in the pursuit of environmental and occupational health and safety standards.'"

"They're blaming us but the real reason is the copper price," agrees Gartner.

The Carlota Copper Mine's draft Environmental Impact Statement received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lowest rating.

According to Deborah Ham, attorney for the citizens' group, the statement leaves unanswered questions concerning water use and quality and makes insufficient provision for the environment after the mine closes. Pump tests have shown that springs in the area will be drained with the construction of the mine.

Pinto Creek flows into Lake Roosevelt, the primary source of drinking water for the city of Phoenix, Arizona. Residents of Roosevelt, a community of 1500, draw their drinking water directly from wells on the edge of Pinto Creek.

According to Hyde, the area's wildlife depends heavily on Pinto Creek, a perennial stream which flows year-round. "It's very rare to have a stream which flows all year in the desert," she explains. "The rest of the area is very dry. The riparian area around the creek is the most lush."

The construction of the mine would permanently divert the stream and the bleach pad used in the mining process will destroy Pow-

ers Gulch.

In September, 1997, Citizens for the Preservation of Powers Gulch and Pinto Creek filed an appeal of the US Forest Service's decision to authorize the mine. The ruling was upheld and on December 29, the group filed a lawsuit in Phoenix Federal Court against the Forest Service.

In between the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements, the Forest Service worked with Cambior to reach a point where unacceptable environmental impacts were mitigated. "We felt the potential effects had been identified and analyzed," claims Karen Harbour of the Forest Service.

Opposition groups disagree. Cambior, maintains Don Zobel of

this scale was never supposed to happen again. It discredits the technology of the mining companies."

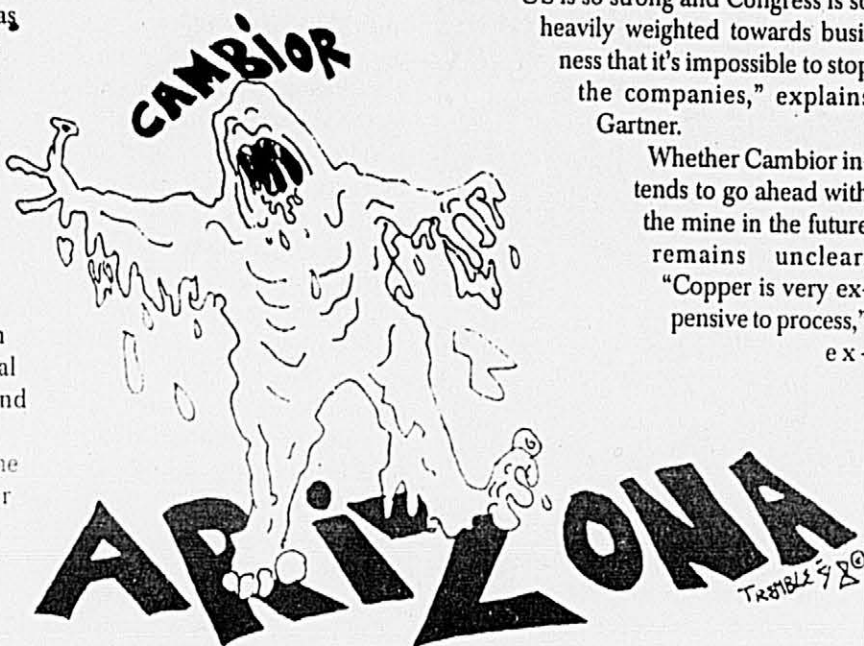
Gartner explains that part of the reason for the Forest Service's authorization of the Carlota project rests on the US Mining Law of 1872. The law stipulates that if a company buys the land (for as little as \$5/acre) and can prove the existence of minerals, the company has the right to mine the land.

Effectively, contends Gartner, "this antiquated law renders the Forest Service powerless, makes the Forest Service a co-developer."

The law was written to encourage people to settle the West over 120 years ago but now large multinational corporations are taking advantage of it. "The mining law in the US is so strong and Congress is so heavily weighted towards business that it's impossible to stop the companies," explains Gartner.

Whether Cambior intends to go ahead with the mine in the future remains unclear. "Copper is very expensive to process,"

e x -



the Citizens' group, "is wrecking Pinto Creek for nothing. It will destroy our quality of life."

"The Forest Service," declares Gartner, "is ignoring the cumulative impact of other spills in the area."

"Pinto Creek has survived terrible things but the habitat is fragile and it will not stand much more," concurs Hyde.

In October 1997, Broken Hill Properties (BHP) Mining Company had a massive spill of waste and tailings in the same area as the proposed Carlota project. The spill contaminated 40 acres of forest land and covered Pinto Creek for three-fifths of a mile.

According to Anne Ficsher of the Forest Service, "Studies said the mine was fine." Now, Ficsher continues, "There is a level of heavy metals in the creek in excess of water quality standards."

"There was minimal rainfall, (about an inch)," describes Gartner, "and the dam gave way. After a similar accident at a Magma-owned mine (later bought out by BHP), which occurred in 1993, 'a spill on

plains Hyde. "It's always a marginal gain and right now, with gold and copper prices so low, Cambior must be taking a hit in terms of their bottom line."

According to Zobel, Cambior claims to have invested \$60 million US into the project already. "If they walk away, they get nothing," says Zobel. Cambior is continuing to secure the necessary permits "to save face," contends Zobel. "Blaming the citizens is just their form of spin control."

This approach, says Travis, is typical. "Cambior goes in and tries to bulldoze local citizens."

Cambior declined to comment.

The potentially disastrous Carlota Copper Mine project would be just another mistake on Cambior's long roster of catastrophes. In August 1995, a dam burst at Cambior's Omai Gold Mine in Guyana and 3.2 billion liters of cyanide-laced effluent gushed into the Essequibo River, reducing a 50-mile stretch to an environmental disaster zone.



matériel d'artistes • arts graphiques • encadrement

DEPUIS 1962

Vente d'Hiver
1998
Winter Sale

prend fin le 21 février
ends February 21

ESCOMPTES
AUX ÉTUDIANT(E)S
STUDENT
DISCOUNTS



Maintenant...
OUVERT LES DIMANCHES!
à l'année longue

12h00 - 17h00

Now...
OPEN ON SUNDAYS!
year 'round

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



matériel d'artistes • arts graphiques • encadrement

355 SHERBROOKE O/W
COIN AVE. DU PARC
CORNER PARC AVE. **288-9892**

Students hit the streets across

by Meg Murphy

Students across the country took to the streets yesterday with a big-picture focus and a movement with depth.

The Jan. 28 Day of Action was organized by the Canadian Federation of Students and drew thousands of students to meeting places ranging from university campuses to government legislatures to financial districts.

Students were calling for a national system of grants and an accessible education system – and were joined by 125 partners from faculty associations, social justice groups and labour unions.

From the growing interest in corporate control to the increased solidarity between social justice, labour and student groups, Wednesday's Action was the picture of a movement maturing and looking at broader issues.

But the immediate concern sparking the protest is the growing student debt load and impending tuition fee increases. Already, average student debt is reaching \$25,000 a year and tuition fees have risen an average of 30 per cent in the last two years.

"These aren't country clubs for the rich where you can increase the membership fees to keep the riffraff out, this is public post-secondary education and we are going to take it back," shouted Brad Lavigne, national chairperson of the CFS, at a rally in the heart of Toronto's financial district.

Mobilization is one of the three components of the federation's lobby effort – research and personal contact with politicians round it out.

"What we are talking about here is happening across the country, the same privatization is happening at Simon Fraser in British Columbia and Memorial University in Newfoundland – and that is why it is the Canadian Federation of Student's National Day of Action," he told a roaring crowd of about 3,000.

In rallies across the country students labeled the banks as the players at the heart of the problem. The financial elite are pulling the strings in this charade, since they have too much weight with politicians and sit on many university boards, say students.

"We are here to make a connection between the policies of Queen's Park and the policies of corporate Canada," said Lavigne, pointing to the banks as the real power-centres.

After the Toronto rally officially wrapped up, some students decided to stay and staged a sit-in in the nearby lobby of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The bank immediately expressed sympathy with the student debt crisis and said the students were welcome to spend the night.

The 40 students left Thursday morning without incident.

Students across the continent

Going to the street a day early in Nova Scotia, about 1,000 students met up at King's College on Tuesday.

Clark talked sympathetically about the importance of a national system of grants and made overtures – not a commitment – about a possible tuition fee freeze for the third year in a row in that province.

At nearby Simon Fraser University students constructed a huge, brick debt wall to symbolize the barriers they face.

The wall, which stood on the president's podium in the main mall was constructed by student society members over a two week period. By January 28, it measured over eight feet tall and at least 12 feet

hundreds of thousands of people freezing in the dark and the financial district went on business as usual, said Kruzynski.

"It was a metaphor for the corporations taking over and leaving us all in the dark," she continued.

The Québec Day of Action is scheduled for February 11.

The Northern Ontario bus tour

In other areas, students decided to focus more pressure on the government than the corporations. At Nipissing University where tuition fees makes up more than 50 per cent of the operating budget, things started out yesterday with a 'Stop the Cuts' bus tour checking out the food banks, transition houses and other areas impacted by provincial government cutbacks.

The tour wrapped up at Premier Mike Harris' office where the students left a small graveyard, indicating accessible post-secondary education is dead.

The tour then headed to Sudbury where 300 students from three more universities converged on Laurentian University's campus for a 'Freeze tuition fees in the North' rally.

Meanwhile, a noon-hour rally at Carleton University in Ottawa brought out hundreds of students, as well as faculty, teaching assistants and labour union reps.

"All of the speakers spoke of the importance of standing unified both across the country and in solidarity with other constituencies across the country going through the same sort of struggle, which have been adversely effected by cuts to social services," said Heidi Van-Dyck, president of Carleton's student union and a federation national executive.

She says students collected about 100 'face of tuition' cards for the

Carleton board of governors, which feature the student's Polaroid and a personal message to the governors.

At the University of Western Ontario, an unprecedented 300 students showed up for a campus rally at a school well-known for its apathy and conservatism. The university president, Paul Davenport, gave a speech about the dangers of student debt and the need for a national grant system. He was joined by members of the teaching assistants union, student politicians and labour reps on stage.

A gigantic ice sculpture of a dollar sign was displayed in the quad – a symbolic call for a tuition freeze.

Source: The Varsity
With files from the Carillon and the SFU Peak

Concordia's Operation Puppet

Angel-shaped noise-makers and larger-than-life puppets clutter the windowsills and tables of a Concordia classroom in preparation for February 11th's provincial Day of Action.

Tasha Bollerup, a Concordia student and Quebec representative to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), says one of the most contentious issues at the heart of the upcoming protest is the presence of profit-oriented corporations on the decision-making bodies of many post-secondary institutions.

She says this corporate alliance creates a serious conflict of interest. "Corporations are in the business of making money. Their goal is to have universities train students to become good little workers and to contribute to the market economy."

The traditional role of education, she explained, is to teach people how to think critically and how to use knowledge of the world to enrich their lives.

The members of Concordia's Operation Puppet agree.

The group has been fabricating papier-mâché characters for almost two weeks. "I want to bring back the idea of culture to political action and resistance," explained Liberal Arts student Kevin Walsh. "Art should be a part of our everyday existence. Instead, ideas of art in our society are usually reserved for art galleries or institutions."

Operation Puppet's main work of art, a marionette tagged as the Prophet of Profit, will juxtapose the two contradictory approaches to education financing.

While the government continues to amalgamate and downsize general and fine arts programs, the Quebec component of the CFS maintains that education should be fully subsidized.

Last year, the provincial government indicated that \$205 million will be cut over the next three years from post-secondary education budgets.

On February 11, puppets and protesters alike will make a statement in favour of more education funds, as well as a system of national bursaries to help students cope with already mounting debt loads.

In light of the recent onslaught of physical and legal repression against anti-APEC protesters in BC and anti-hunger activists at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, CFS members say the upcoming February Day of Action will also be partly aimed at protecting students' right to protest.

Source: The Link, with files from Nancy Laforest



day and, along with labour and postal workers, took on the legislature.

"The mood was celebratory. Right from the beginning we wanted the tone to be one of taking celebratory action," said Jessica Squires, a national executive rep for the Nova Scotia component of CFS.

The next day saw several thousand Vancouver students bound for their trade and convention centre, presenting bankruptcy notices to the banks as a reminder that the dwindling government support for post-secondary education is morally bankrupt.

As in Toronto, Vancouver students united with partners from different constituencies who recognize that their problems stem from the same root.

"This is not just one fight, it is not just student interest in education. It is also workers, parents with children, it is the public in general that opposes the downloading and corporate control," said Joey Hansen, BC national rep for the federation.

In Victoria, 4,000 students descended on their financial district, leaving burlap sacks symbolizing gigantic debt loads as presents for the Royal Bank before heading to the provincial legislature for a rally where Premier Glen Clark made an appearance.

wide.

Students were invited to record their student loan debts on the bricks. By the end of the day, some bricks showed debts as high as \$60,000.

Maya Russell, student society treasurer, said that at final count the total debt written on the wall was \$8.28 million.

She noted that the wall was a real eye-catcher, bringing home the reality of spiralling student debt.

The Royal Bank was the focus of protest in Regina, where about 200 students marched Wednesday. CFS-Saskatchewan concentrated on the bank because it holds a monopoly on student loans in the province.

Students there expressed their outrage over rising tuition and increased debt with chants such as "Loans! No thanks! Tax the fucking banks!"

Meanwhile in Montréal, where the Day of Action has been postponed due to the ice storm, students held a press conference and delivered the same message. "We had a mural with the Montréal stock exchange all lit up and all the universities and CEGEPs in the dark," explained Anna Kruzynski, chair of the Quebec component of the CFS.

During the ice storm, she said, downtown Montréal was black except for the exchange. There were

cross Canada

We're "sentenced to debt," say Newfoundland students

by Amanda Labont

It was small but loud.

Students from Memorial University, the Marine Institute, the College of the North Atlantic, and even from local high schools gathered at Memorial's St. John's campus last Wednesday to protest government cuts to education and rising debt-loads.

The rally was part of the nation-wide Day of Action sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Numbers fluctuated throughout the day, with the crowd swelling to about 1,000 at its peak. Although it was smaller in size than the protests of 1996 and 1995, which drew 2,500 and 5,000 students respectively, this year's crowd was no less passionate.

"I think it's a right and a responsibility to protest against things that we don't agree with," said one of the protesters.

The rally began at 11:30 am with speeches from student leaders and members of local unions. Added attractions included a mock jail cell for students "sentenced to debt" and a stuffed Jean Chrétien which people were encouraged to kick.

"It is with great frustration that we see what is happening today," said Brendan Doyle, president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers Association.



DAILY FILE GRAPHIC

the campus food bank in recent years, and the 4.5 per cent tuition fee increase planned for this summer.

Local activist and former member of CODCO Greg Malone urged the government to make better spending choices and put \$30 or \$40 million a year back into post-secondary education. He recalled a provincial program from the '60s in which students were actually paid to attend school.

"I had a free university education. They paid me \$50 a month to go here, and if that don't make you bitter I don't know what will," Malone said.

Searching for Tobin

Following the rally in the gym, several hundred students marched to the provincial legislature where they eventually occupied the foyer for about two hours.

The protesters asked to meet with Premier Brian Tobin and Education Minister Roger Grimes. When told that both were out of their offices for the afternoon, they got Liberal MLA Bill Ramsey instead.

Ramsey told the students that the

government understood their problems, that there are no easy solutions and that the Liberal Government is doing the best it can. "You don't have to eat Kraft Dinner everyday," yelled one protester.

"I've had my share of Kraft Dinner, and I still like Kraft dinner," Ramsey replied.

He was heckled by the crowd.

Opposition MLAs from both the provincial Tories and the new Newfoundland and Labrador Party were also on hand to urge students to protest against the Liberals.

Several students said they didn't join the protests because they feel the

bled anyway," said an engineering student who was attending classes at Memorial. "It's not like we're seeing any change because of these protests."

Student Union President Clarke says he understands that many students stayed away because they feel these types of protests are futile. "I feel that a lot of students have been converted away from demonstrating actively because they feel it has no effect because of the lack of action by the government over the last few years," he said.

"But there's still quite a few out there who feel we can have an effect and I think we proved that today," he continued. "... We need a tuition freeze, student debt levels need to be addressed before they get any worse, and the student unemployment issue needs to be addressed."

"I think in the end we got our point across, which is the most important thing," he said.



DAILY FILE PHOTO

government just isn't listening.

"When I went to the rally in my first year, my tuition was \$1,000, and now it's \$2,000, so it's dou-

Source: The Muse; with files from Mark Tipple, Michael Wrinch and Michael Connors.

FitzPatrick pleads guilty in CASA fraud case

by David Cochrane

FREDERICTON (CUP) — A former director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations has admitted to embezzling funds from the organization and could face up to two years in jail.

Patrick FitzPatrick entered a guilty plea to charges of fraud under \$5,000 in a Fredericton courtroom Jan. 27, bringing to an end a year-long investigation into the alliance's finances.

FitzPatrick's trial was supposed to start last September. But at the last minute he changed lawyers and was granted a delay until his new counsel could study the case. In his first court appearance since Sept. 8, FitzPatrick showed up with a new lawyer, and a guilty plea.

"Students from across the country are just clapping," Hoops Harrison, the current director of the alliance, said.

The fraud charges stemmed from

a two-month period in the fall of 1995 when FitzPatrick was serving as CASA's interim director. CASA said FitzPatrick used his position as coordinator of a national conference on higher education to access and misuse funds.

The conference, which was eventually canceled, ran up nearly \$30,000 in unaccounted expenses. When suspicious bills began to appear, like one for \$10,000 worth of letterhead, the organization began an internal investigation.

FitzPatrick was initially charged by New Brunswick police with fraud over \$5,000, which carried a sentence of up to 10 years in jail plus possible fines. The lesser charge of fraud under \$5,000, to which FitzPatrick eventually pleaded guilty, carries a sentence of up to two years in jail plus any fines the judge chooses to impose.

Some reports placed the amount of misused money to be as much as

\$40,000.

Harrison says the result of the case provides an important lesson in how student leaders must be accountable to their constituents.

"This goes further than CASA," he said. "This goes to the whole idea of student advocacy and students putting their faith in elected officials. [Y]ou can't break your trust with students."

"It's a bit of a relief that the situation is finally over and that we can move beyond it," Chris Adams, president of the Dalhousie University student union, said. The union was one of the founding members of the alliance.

But the guilty plea does not mean FitzPatrick's legal troubles are over. It only applies to charges stemming from his actions while in New Brunswick, mostly in connection with the failed conference.

Harrison says his organization is considering a separate legal com-

plaint in Ontario. While serving as the alliance's interim director, FitzPatrick also had access to a CASA-funded credit card. Charges to the credit card during that period include bills for pizza, a stay at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, and a \$169 shopping spree at The Gap. FitzPatrick and his lawyer could not be reached for comment.

FitzPatrick will be back in court April 28 for sentencing.

Kevin Connell, the Crown prosecutor who handled the case, isn't saying what he feels is an appropriate sentence for the former student politician or whether he thinks he should serve any time behind bars.

"I'm not discussing anything about sentencing until it happens," Connell said. CASA was just a few months old and had a total annual budget of \$128,000 when the money went missing. The scandal gave a black eye to the fledgling student group and almost crippled the or-

ganization financially. Several student councils even reconsidered their CASA membership when news of FitzPatrick's financial liberties broke.

But in the wake of the FitzPatrick scandal, the alliance made some organizational changes that some members say will prevent similar difficulties in the future. This included having more than one person sign cheques for the organization and devolving some authority from the executive to the membership.

"We've established a structure right now that I think is fair, works better for the membership and assures that this will never happen again," Adams said. CASA represents 13 student unions and more than 200,000 students across the country.

Source: Ottawa Bureau

NOTICE

A petition has been made to the SSMU Judicial Board, challenging the validity of the Student Health Care contract with respect to the SSMU Constitution.

Any third parties (SSMU member groups or individuals) interested in intervening on either side are invited to do so.

Written submissions, conforming to SSMU Judicial Board Procedures, must be placed in the Judicial Board box at the SSMU office by the end of Mon., February 9, 1998.

For more information, contact the Chair of the SSMU Judicial Board by e-mail at jacobs_l@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca



McGill Reproductive Centre
 ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL
 687 Pine Avenue West, F6.58
 Montreal, Qc, H3A 1A1
 McGill University

SPERM DONORS NEEDED
 - expenses reimbursed -

For use in artificial insemination program. Must be healthy, between 18-40 yrs, must pass screening tests.

For info call: 843-1650 or 842-1231 local 6831.



CASA'S NATIONAL DEBT DAY

by Mark Ratner

You might have seen the petition board in the SSMU foyer requesting signatures regarding Canadian Alliance of Student Association's National student debt day. Today's events are aimed at addressing the problem of high debts among Canada's post-secondary students.

"Debts have reached the crisis level," says SSMU VP-External Lisa Phipps.

Phipps points out that in the last

four years, the average student debt has risen from \$8 700 to \$25 000.

"Once you graduate you have a looming debt burden. On average, you will have to pay until you are 52," she says.

As part of the festivities today, MNA Jacques Chagnon will address students in the Shatner Cafeteria.

CASA is circulating a petition to students that is intended to be presented to Finance Minister Paul Martin, Human Resources Minister

Pierre Pettigew and PC Party Leader Jean Charest.

Phipps hopes that CASA's actions will affect the upcoming national Liberal budget.

"We are really excited, we are meeting with finance Minister Paul Martin right before the budget is released," she says.

CASA hopes to build on the momentum started two weeks ago when members met with the Finance Minister.

Turning a blind eye

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FALLS ON DEAF EARS

by Zak Firestone

Representatives from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) met with Finance Minister Paul Martin on Friday, January 23 to discuss key issues for the Federation's National Day of Action which took place last Wednesday.

The Federation expressed three general demands to the federal and provincial governments: a national freeze on tuition fees, a national system of grants for student loans and the abandonment of a possible Income Contingent Repayment Policy (ICRP).

Martin replied to the CFS demands by citing the Millennium Scholarship Fund. This fund, which was made public by the Liberals in mid September is an endowment fund containing one to three billion dollars. "The intention of this fund is to access the problem of debt loans to graduating students," Martin said. The Millennium Scholarship Fund is a large reserve of money which is not included in the federal budget because it is an endowment. Martin was vague about releasing details about the fund to the public and would not say when it would be used.

After the meeting the CFS distributed a press release with comments from its National Chairperson, Brad Lavigne. He described the reason for students taking to the streets on the Day of Action by stating, "Our message to the Minister was simple...the downloading of the deficit onto individual students has compromised access to post-secondary education." The Federation wanted to make clear that if the Finance Minister

thinks this is an important issue, he will put some of the deficit towards a national system of grants, as well as setting the stage for a national tuition freeze.

The Federation's third demand, concerning the ICRP as a possible loan scheme, is perhaps the most distressing for students nation wide. It was an idea created in the 1950's with the goal of off loading the cost of post-secondary education from public funds to those of individual students. It is questionable whether the use of the ICRP is a step in the right direction.

There has been evidence that ICRP does not work in the student's favor. It is a system where graduated students earning larger salaries would be able to pay off loans faster, with less interest. Based on this premise, women, persons of racial minorities, and students in less high income-oriented fields would be at an immediate disadvantage. "The idea is the more you make the faster you pay off your loans, with less interest," commented Jennifer Story, National Deputy Chairperson at the CFS.

When it was tested in Australia and New Zealand, where there have recently been drastic tuition increases, the ICRP led to drops in enrollment in double digit figures. Those who had less money stopped enrolling because they would not be able to pay back their loans after graduating. A similar study done by the Canadian government found that twenty five years after graduation, 43 per cent of women would be unable to pay off their loans.

Nevertheless, the federal govern-

ment is reinvestigating the idea of ICRP's. Ontario plans to offer the policy as an option from this summer until December 31, 1999. From January 1, in the year 2000, it will be the only option available for students who must seek loans.

With the exception of Québec, still recovering from the ice storm, the Day of Action went on as planned last Wednesday across Canada. Jennifer Story described the events as "an overall excellent day for the CFS." Students across the nation participated in the protest with activities ranging from a carnival in St. John to the occupation of the CIBC main office in Toronto. In Winnipeg, 65 students entered and occupied the constituency of Premier Gary Filmon. Montréal's Day of Action will take place on Wednesday, February 11.

For now, talks will continue between the Finance Minister and the CFS. The Federation hopes protests like the Day of Action will force the government to make the needs of students as a top priority. In a final comment the Lavigne made his point clear: "This government, particularly the Finance Minister has some choices to make. He can continue to put the interests of the investment community before the needs of students or he can reinvest in education."

Student participation in the Day of Action is enthusiastically requested and those interested can find out more by calling the Quebec component of the CFS at 398-1600.

The Best Deal in Student Travel ...



VIA Rail™ has always been the best deal in student travel — with comfort, convenience, and service **PLUS 40% off any economy seat, anywhere, any time when you show your ISIC.** It's no wonder thousands of Canadian students are taking the train. Well, that deal ...

... just got better!



It's called the **VIA 6 Pak™**. You will **SAVE 50%** when you buy 6 trips (3 round-trips) between the same 2 places (say, home and school) and show your ISIC. **PLUS**, for a limited time, with your VIA 6 Pak, you will get a **FREE 15 minute long distance offer** along with 6 other great deals on food, clothing, music, and more ... including awesome savings on the popular **CANRAILPASS**. For complete details contact your nearest travel agent or VIA Rail.



www.viarail.ca

Certain restrictions may apply.

ISIC stands for the International Student Identity Card and is issued at select VIA Rail stations and student travel agencies.

Large turnout for McGill's Model UN

Students from across North America travel to Montreal

by Jennifer Mudicka

Almost 800 students from universities across North America were in Montreal this past weekend for the McGill Model United Nations (McMUN) Assembly.

Last Thursday's opening ceremonies included a welcome address by Mayor Pierre Bourque, a televised message from Jean Chrétien and a speech on Canada's role in international peacekeeping and land mines by keynote speaker General Maurice Baril, Chief of Defense Staff for the Canadian Forces.

For some of the Assembly's delegates, this conference was their first chance to visit Montreal. Not only are these events an opportunity to debate with other students and experience a simulated United Nations assembly, but they are also very conducive to meeting people. There were many events planned for the participants throughout the weekend. On Friday night a trip to the Casino and then a pub crawl was organized. Saturday, McMUN planned to host its own party.

Carla Waldron from Kennesaw State University of Atlanta, Georgia was pleased with the organization of the conference.

"It's great that they've given us time to actually go out and spend some time in the city. Sometimes the conferences go from 9:00 in the morning until 10:00 or 11:00 at night and we don't get the chance to do anything else," she said.

After the Opening Ceremonies there was an optional General Assembly meeting during which the issue of land mines was discussed. Students were able to propose and vote on

motions to debate, such as the time set for speakers and comments.

There were many students planning to go out Thursday evening, despite the next day's early start. Waldron was impressed by the diversity of the activities offered.

"It's exciting to be here with all these different people from different schools. There are some really good speakers coming, and lots of social events have been planned," she said.

As the Assembly called for "western business attire," everyone there appeared to be very well dressed, and looked more like politicians than students.



all the excitement of the opening of the Assembly, there were some students who were left out. Participants who had traveled from McAllister University, St. Paul, Minnesota were told they could not enter for the opening ceremonies because the room was full. Even though they had their ID badges, the security guards on the ground floor would not let them proceed. The students explained that this happened because their flight was delayed and they arrived late. By the

time they arrived, registration had been closed and the ceremonies had begun. None of the McMUN executives could be reached to remedy the situation as they were all participating in the events at that time.

Genevieve Piché of McAllister said she was disappointed that they were not allowed admittance, but that she was looking forward to participating in the rest of the Assembly, which really did not begin until later that evening. Piché said "We traveled all this way, and it's frustrating that they're not letting us in. I guess we'll just go somewhere and get something to eat tonight and be ready for tomorrow's assembly."

If the group had tried again to enter after the opening ceremonies they would not have had any trouble getting inside. Eli Zysman-Colman who is the McMUN Chargé d'Affaires (the Coordinator between delegates) commented: "The building is high security and the acting security guards were most likely responding to higher orders, not given by [McMUN]." He also said that they had planned for the number of students participating and that he expected everything else to run smoothly.

The United Nations Students Association of McGill (UNSAM) is also planning to attend model UN meetings at Berkeley University in California and Western University in London Ontario this winter. UNSAM meets on Wednesdays at 18:30 in the Shatner cafeteria.

CAREER & PLACEMENT SERVICE
McGill University
Powell Student Services Bldg. - Suite 308
Tel: 514-398-3304 Fax: 514-398-1831

...the RECRUITERS are coming ... the RECRUITERS are coming !!!!



On-Campus Recruitment
is in full gear at C.A.P.S.

Check out our website for
Job Postings
List of company presentations

www.mcgill.ca/stuserv/caps



06/9-866
advertising

MORGENTALER CLINIC

30 St. Joseph Blvd. E., Suite 710
Tel: 844-4844

...
Abortion Services
Competent and compassionate care.
Confidentiality assured.

Saturday appointments also available.

events

**Friday January 30,
1998 - Friday February
6, 1998**

Queer Pride Week at McGill is brought to you by LBGTM. - this week, focused on creating a spirit of pride and unity in the queer community, begins with a launch party on Friday January 30 at

Thompson House at 21h and ends with a closing party at the ever popular SKY Club, 1474 Ste Catherine E. Come on out and enjoy this week of dynamic events!

**Tuesday February 3,
1998**

Bisexual? Bi-curious?? Just plain curious??? LBGTM's Bi discussion group invites all women, men, straight, gay and open-minded to a Pride Week OPEN HOUSE! From 17h30 to 19h at the Women's Union in Shatner 423, the LBGTM's Bi Discussion Group opens its doors - so come on out! For more info call LBGTM at 398-6822 or Andie at 282-8854.

Thursday February 5,

1998

Come to the **Yellow Door** for more smoky adolescent poetry than you can handle! Performers are to be announced. Price is \$5, doors open at 20h.

**Sunday February 8,
1998**

Come and hear the Orthodox Clergy Association of Quebec and the Choirs of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Montreal in the **Orthodox Liturgical Music Festival** at 19 h. The festival will be held at Saint Patrick's Basilica on 460 Boulevard René Lévesque West. A donation of at least \$5 is expected.

**Tuesday February 10,
1998**

AGSEM, McGill's TA Union is having a council meeting for all departmental Union representatives at Thompson House at 18h30. Food will be served.

**Sunday February 15,
1998**

McGill Hillel is going to Ottawa for an ice skating trip on the Rideau Canal. The trip is co-sponsored with Concordia Hillel, Ottawa Hillel, and the Association of Young Jewish

Adults in both Montréal and Ottawa. The trip will cost \$7 for students and \$10 for non-students. This price includes bussing to and from Ottawa and pizza lunch. Ice skate rental is additional. For more information or to sign up for the trip please call Jodi at Hillel at 845-9171.

**Thursday February 19,
1998**

Richard Kearney, Professor of Philosophy, University College in Dublin and Author of *Sam's Fall* gives a lecture on The Ethics of Remembrance: Hamlet, Dora and Schindler. Kearney discusses the tendency to reduce the past to an interpretation - and the need to remain faithful to historical happenings. The talk will take place in Room S1/3, Stewart Biological Sciences Building, 1205 Dr. Penfield Avenue West (at Drummond). Lecture at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday February 19, 1998.

Ongoing

Trouble meeting people/making friends? Concerned with communication in relationships? The **Social Communication Group** will be having meetings on Mondays until February 9, 1998. Info: McGill Counseling Services: 398-3601.

A Summer Course at
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Why Not!

We welcome
visiting students

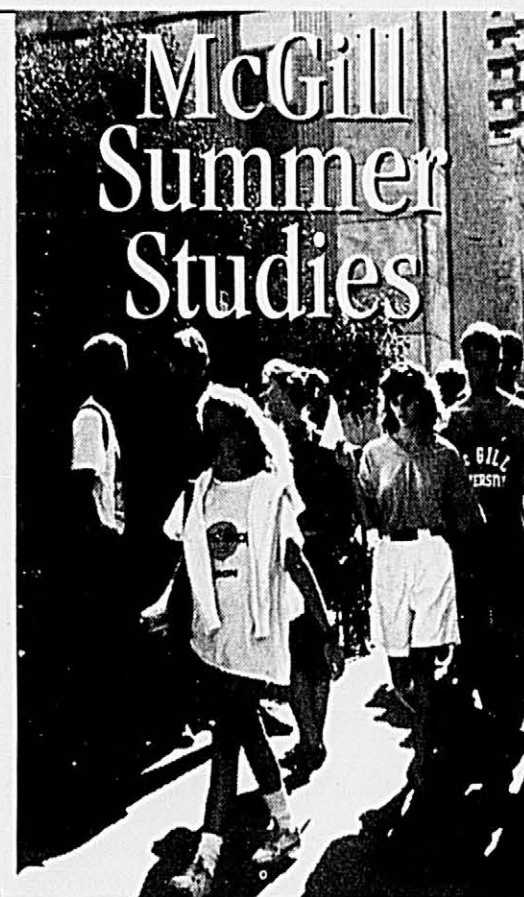
Increase your options
Lighten your course load
Enrich your program
Experience Montreal

It's all here for you!

McGill Summer Studies
offers a full range of
university-level courses.

Registration opens:
February 27, 1998

McGill Summer Studies
550 Sherbrooke Street West
Suite 585, West Tower
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1B9
Phone: (514) 398-5212
Fax: (514) 398-5224
E-mail: Summer@550Sherb.Lan.McGill.Ca



Please send me
1998 Summer Studies
and information on
summer accommodation
in McGill University
Residences.

NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____
CITY	PROVINCE/STATE
POSTAL/ZIP CODE	PHONE
UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE	_____



UVic teaching assistants launch own unionization drive

by Mary Vallis

VICTORIA (CUP) Teaching assistants at another Canadian university have launched a unionization drive in the wake of painful cutbacks.

Earlier this month, signing cards were distributed to teaching assistants at the University of Victoria – the first step towards unionizing an estimated 900 academic workers on the campus with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Under the B.C. Labour Code, organizers have to collect signatures from 55 per cent of the university's TAs before they can be considered for certification by the province's Labour Relations Board. An application can then be made to CUPE.

Jodi Jensen, a union organizer, says the union drive is the result of recent cutbacks in jobs and wages, which have intensified long-standing dissatisfaction among TAs.

UVic teaching assistants have seen teaching hours, office hours and lab sections evaporate in the wake of campus-wide cuts, and as a result have seen their wages drop by as much as 20 per cent.

Because of cuts like these, Peter Lane, a member of the CUPE who is also involved in the drive, says the organizing effort is getting support from non-traditional areas "... at UVic, science students have been among the most vocal in favour of organizing."

There is no minimum pay level for TAs at UVic. The average wage is \$16 per hour (though wages are calculated at a salary amount for the semester). Jensen says the average wage at the University of British Columbia, where teaching assistants are unionized, is \$25 an hour.

A survey commissioned by the student union last fall found that more than 85 per cent of respondents were in favor of a collective bargaining structure.

Teaching assistants at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario recently launched a unionization drive of their own, and TAs here at McGill have been fighting for a fair contract for years.

Source: The Martlet

Queer education conference a first for Saskatchewan

by Hannah Scissons

SASKATOON (CUP) An upcoming conference in Saskatchewan will aim to make the province's education system more sensitive to the needs of its gay and lesbian students.

Don Cochrane, an education professor at the University of Saskatchewan, says he got the idea to organize the conference while teaching a new course last winter about gay and lesbian issues in education.

"There's as much homophobia in this province as in any other, and it's considerable," he said.

Cochrane says there will be two main focuses for the conference, to be held March 21 in Saskatoon. One will be to help the province's school boards update their policies to include sexual orientation as grounds for which both students and teachers can't be discriminated against. The other will be a workshop for guidance counselors.

"[Counselors] are usually the first to face questions in their offices from students about their identity," Cochrane said. "We'd like to make them more receptive to gay and lesbian questions."

The conference will be the first of its kind to be held in the province.

Source: The Carillon

York to set up world's largest women's studies school

by Siobhan McClelland

TORONTO (CUP) – York University is in the process of establishing the largest women's studies school in the world.

The school, which should be up and running by next summer, will have 200 faculty members and over 2,000 students.

"[It will allow] feminists in various departments, that weren't available because of the internal divisions, to come together," Katherine McPherson, women's studies undergraduate program co-ordinator, said.

Students will be offered a wide range of courses at the school, ranging from history and business to fine arts. It will also provide greater access to research, vocational counseling and conferences.

The idea for the school was conceived during an undergraduate program review at York in 1994. While the review praised York for having the best women's studies program in Canada, it criticized the lack of accessibility between the undergraduate programs offered at York's three different campuses.

Women's studies was first offered to York students in 1972, and the university began awarding degrees in women's studies in 1983. York's graduate program in women's studies was the first in the country to offer a Ph.D. in the field.

national news briefs

U of R opens up (board of) governing process

By Patrick Cabel

REGINA (CUP) Students at the University of Regina will now have an opportunity, albeit a limited one, to get a glimpse into their school's governing chambers.

The university's Board of Governors recently voted to open two of their meetings to members of the public. Previously, all board meetings were conducted behind closed doors and the minutes were sealed.

Marjorie Brown, president of the U of R student union and the only student who sits on the board, originally put forward a motion to have all 10 of the board's annual meetings opened up to the public. After some discussion, the motion was amended to open just two.

Brown explains that, "The Board of Governors is the highest decision-making body at the university, and is responsible for tuition fees, the budget and a whole host of other matters. There are 12 members, including administration, faculty, provincial appointees, the student union president and representatives of the university senate."

At the open meetings, board members will participate in a question-and-answer session. The board also decided to allow members of the public to attend closed meetings, pending an application to the chair of the board. Meeting agendas will now be posted on the university's website, as will the board's decisions.

Said Peter Borch, a student member of the U of R senate who met with some of the members of the Board of Governors to promote the idea of open meetings, "I think some ground has been gained, but it's by no means as much as needs to be gained."

Source: The Carillon

You can ask, we won't tell New info laws shield Alberta MLAs

EDMONTON, Jan. 26 /CNW/ Alberta's freedom of information laws must be changed in light of a shocking ruling which concludes that under the provincial legislation people are not entitled to know how elected officials spend the public's money, says the Canadian Association of Journalists.

"This is a real setback for open and accountable government," said Tom Arnold, the association's national president. "It is an absolutely appalling decision."

In an important ruling released in Alberta last week, Information Commissioner Bob Clark concluded that MLA records are excluded from the provinces' freedom of information legislation.

Such records could include personal expenses, residence claims, committee fees and expense claims, living and traveling expense claims, including meal expenses, staff travel expenses and promotional expenses and purchases as well as telephone expense claims.

"This is not about witchhunts and getting people," Arnold said. "This is an issue that affects what people can find out about their government."

"[P]eople are entitled to know how MLAs spend the public's money," he added, urging the government to change the legislation.

Source: Canada NewsWire Portfolio Email (portfolio@newswire.ca)

Health plan contract continued from page 1

rule in a way that condones abuse of executive power."

Nigro also raises issues of conflict of interest, and questions the lack of competition. "The fact that the Financial Ethics Research Committee did not review and report its finding is especially disturbing considering that the agreement was signed with an Insurance Broker who's son used to be the VP Finance." This former VP Finance is now Executive Director of the plan. Also, other former SSMU Executives, including last year's VP External Chantal di Silva, work for the QSHA.

Nigro remarks, "This plan shouldn't be in the hands of a former VP Finance and his father. Doesn't Lev Buckman have a moral responsibility not to sign the contract be-

cause he knows it hasn't passed council?"

Although different insurance companies were invited to bid for the contract, there was no such invitation to brokers. Reid claims that there is no real competition to QSHA, that they provide many more services than a normal insurance broker. "They provide a service that is absolutely unique," and adds that when they were originally selected several years ago, "...they went through a complete bidding process. It's not like they've never been held up to the light of competition."

Nigro feels differently. "We have to compete again," he says, "We have to compete for each new contract."

THE DAILY

advertising:
398-6790

SINCE
1911

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.65 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.10 per day. General Public: \$5.90 per day, or \$4.95 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

H O U S I N G

Apts to rent - 1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2. Heated, hot water, renovated, painted. Fridge, stove included. Situated across from de l'Eglise Metro station. Call 761-0808.

Family from Vancouver looking for furnished 3 to 5 bedroom apartment from May through August, 1998. Preferably nearer parks than right downtown i.e., Mont Royal (park), Park Ave, parc Lafontaine. (604) 532-4104.

Ideal for student in large 8 1/2. 1 room now available, TV-VCR, cable, access to laundry room, heating/hydro all included. Bargain \$300/mo. Close to Metro. Male student preferred. Call 768-6968.

Combine housing & Social Justice experience, study discuss & live christian base community at bottom of Peel St. Small house, 3 roommates (male) \$250 cheap, quiet. Contact Rick 933-4590.

M O V E R S / S T O R A G E

Moving/Storage. Closed van or truck. Local & long distance. Ott-Tor-Van-NY-Fla-7 days, 24 hours, low rates. Steve 735-8148.

H E L P W A N T E D

Earn \$100-\$200/day Master School of Bartending - bartending & table service. Complete placement agency. Leaders in the hospitality industry for 15 yrs. McGill rate 849-2828. WWW.BARTENDING.COM

Travel-Teach English: 5 day/40hr (Feb. 25-Mar. 1) TESOL teacher certification course (or by correspondence). 1,000's of jobs available NOW. FREE information package, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

Auditions! Actors needed for Concordia video productions. Males and females of all ages. Call Angie @ 648-3555.

Remunerated 5 1/2 hours over 2 sessions. Non-smokers, right-handed, not colorblind students 18-35. For attention study call 848-2253.

Athletes varsity: Basketball, Tennis, Gymnastics, Soccer, Wall Climbing, Football, Archery, Kayak, Waterski instructors for children's summer camp, Laurentians. Also arts & crafts, pottery, beadmaking, photo staff. Fax C.V. (514) 481-7863

WORDPROCESSING/TYPING

Success To All Students
WordPerfect 5.1 Term papers, resumes, applications, transcription of tapes. Editing of grammar. 29 years experience. \$1.50/D.S.P. 7 Days/ week. On Campus/Peel/ Sherbrooke. Paulette 288-9638

Word Processing of term-papers, theses, reports, etc. Word-perfect 5.1 Laser printer. Fast professional service. Good rates. Close to McGill. Brigitte 282-0301.

WordPerfect 6.0 Windows, Theses \$1.50/DSP, applications, term-papers, graphics, SAs, CVs. Specialized in medical and dental terminology. Professional, reliable. Close to McGill. Vicky 843-3572.

S E R V I C E S O F F E R E D

English Angst? Proofreading/correcting for univ. papers, resumes, etc. Also tutor for Eng. written/conversation. Good rates-pleasant atmosphere. Tel Lawrence 279-4710.

F O R S A L E

Daytona Beach Florida Spring Break 1998. \$289 February 20-March 1. 7 nights. Daily Pool-deck Parties, beach activities. Fun, Sun, Party-time! 392-9789.

P E R S O N A L

Are you willing to become an egg donor for an infertile couple anxious to have a baby? All expenses paid. Please call Linda at 514-849-1329.

L E S S O N S / C O U R S E S

Art Courses
Pottery, sculpture, painting, drawing, live model, free studio time. 460 St. Catherine W. #502 Metro McGill 879-9694.

Come and Practice your French with Francophones. Bilingual Club Half and Half. Tel. 465-9128.

Music Academy offering courses in guitar, bass, piano, drums, flute, vocals, sax, composition, writing etc. Tel 363-6771, 626-8194. McGill students receive 10% discount.

SINCE
1911

GRE

April 4th is one of your last chances ever to take the Paper & Pencil GRE!

Don't miss your chance to prepare with the GRE experts.

Classes are filling fast, so call today and find out why more than 3 million students have chosen Kaplan to help them score higher.

Class Starts February 8th

Call 287-1896 to enroll!

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST

www.kaplan.com

*GRE is a registered trademark of the Educational Testing Service.

expert teachers

superior materials

smart technology

proven results

SALES REPS WANTED

Motivated, energetic team players to add to a relaxed and comfortable office atmosphere. Great bonus and incentives. Experience an asset but not required. Fulltime from 8:30-3:30 and parttime from 3:30 to 7:30. Limited spaces available.

845-0099

Life Style without glasses

"No touch" Laser Excimer, PRK, Lask

Myopia - Astigmatism - Hyperopia
Contact lens discomfort

LASER ULTRAVISION INSTITUTE
for careers in the Armed Forces, pilots, RCMP, air traffic controllers, firemen, police, athletics.

Medical Director
Dr. Marvin L. Kwitko
Past Chairman, Advisory Committee on the Excimer Laser, for Health and Welfare Canada.
5591, Côte-des-Neiges, Mt. Qc, Canada
1(514)735-1133 1-800-20LASER

JCC Camp Kingswood

A coed overnight camp in Bridgton, Maine

Summer Positions

Supervisory: Unit Head, Arts & Crafts Director, Athletics Director, Camping Director, Drama Director, Office Manager;

Counselors with Specialties in: Aquatics, Archery, Athletics, Boating, Camping, Ceramics, Gymnastics, Photography/Yearbook, Radio, Ropes, Sailing, Tennis;

Other: Secretary, 1st Cook

For information, call Wayne Goldstein or Ava Goldman, 617-244-5124.

MCGILL QUEER PRIDE WEEK 1998!

monday february 2

QUEER HEALTH WORKSHOP Powell Bldg. 17:30

QUEER GRAD CAUCUS MEETING New Group, Thomson House 19:00

tuesday february 3

PANEL DISCUSSION: "ACT-UP! OR SHOULD WE NOT BOTHER?" Union Bldg. caf 19:00

WRITE FOR RIGHTS Letter-writing in collaboration with Amnesty International. Union Bldg. 107/108, 9:00-21:00

wednesday february 4

MOVIE NIGHT In order, Lilies, Go Fish and The Celluloid Closet, time allowing. Union Bldg. 107/108 20:00

WORKSHOP ON VIOLENCE AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS Union Bldg. 302, 17:00

thursday february 5

SEX WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN Union Bldg. 425/426 16:00

OPEN MIKE NIGHT Thomson House basement 21:00

friday february 6

CLOSING PARTY A groovy culmination party at SKY Club, 1474 Ste-Catherine East.

Ongoing/TBA

INFORMATION KIOSK Union Bldg. Mon-Thurs

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT DRIVE at the kiosk

CANDYGRAMS! at the kiosk

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY at the kiosk

AWARENESS POSTER CAMPAIGN on McGill campus

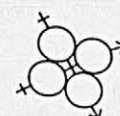
QUEER KISS-IN Time and place TBA

Locations

POWELL BUILDING 3637 Peel St

THOMSON HOUSE 3650 McTavish St

UNION BUILDING 3480 McTavish St



Queer Happenings

GIVE LBGTM A CALL
AT 398-6822

McGill
David Blankenhorn

"Fatherlessness:
Cultural Crisis or
Spiritual
Opportunity"

Friday, Feb 6, 1998, at 8:00 pm
Diocesan College
3473 University Street

The public is welcome

Made possible thanks to the support of the
Beatty Memorial Lectures Committee

NEW

MOLSON
Ice
DRY
6.5% alc/vol.

6.5 on the DRY scale

AS ALWAYS | NO | AFTERTASTE